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"... Péron spoke of the affection one of the women manifested for her offspring, and in the Van Diemen's Land Annual for 1834 (p. 78), it is stated, 'They are extremely fond of their children, and treat their women kindly.' Backhouse relates (p. 83) that a sealer came and took away a child that he had had by a native woman, now married to a man of her nation; its mother was greatly distressed at parting with it,' and continues (p. 147), 'When walking with J. Bateman in the garden, he pointed out the grave of a child of one of the blacks that died at his house. When it expired, the mother and other native women made great lamentation, and the morning after it was buried, happening to walk round his garden before sunrise, he found its mother weeping over its grave; yet it is asserted by some that these people are without natural affection.' West describes the following incidents (II. p. 80): 'It was noon: the mother, her infant, a little boy, had been without food all day; the father refused any part of that he had provided. Another of the tribe was more generous: when he handed the woman a portion, before she tasted any herself, she fed her child.... They were sensible of domestic affections: the tribes were scattered by the last war, some were captives, others fugitives, eleven were already lodged at Richmond, when Mr. Gilbert Robertson brought up two others, a man and woman; they were recognized from afar by the party first taken; these raised the cry of welcome; it was a family meeting, and deeply moved the spectators. The parents embraced their children with rapture and many tears.'"

"The following instance of maternal devotion given by Jeffreys supports our views of the case: 'Those [women] who have united themselves to our sailors have manifested a faithful and affectionate attachment, and are extremely jealous of a rival. This may be partially occasioned by their great dread of being abandoned by the sailors to the mercy of their native tribes, who never fail, on such occasions, to treat them with extreme severity. In some instances, their children, the offspring of their illicit intercourse with Europeans, are forcibly taken from them and thrown into the fire, where they are destroyed. An instance of this kind, in which, however, the child was saved by the affection and courage of its parent, happened within the author's knowledge. One of these women, who had been for many years attached to a sailor, one evening wandered from her sealing party with a young child at her breast, and accidentally falling in with a band of natives, was immediately attacked, her infant was snatched from her, and thrown into a large fire; this treatment inspired the woman with the most desperate courage: she rushed with the rapidity of lightning through the horde of barbarians, and in an instant plucked her child from the devouring element, and ran off with it into the woods, whither she was followed by the savages; but she contrived, aided by the shades of night, to conceal herself and her scorched infant behind the thick trunk of a fallen tree. Considerable search was made for her by the men, but finding it useless, they returned to their fire,

round which they lay down and went to sleep. The poor woman, observing this, quietly left her hiding-place, and before morning reached the town of Launceston, a distance of about ten miles, where she once more found a [57] comfortable home at the residence of a gentleman of that place. The poor mother suffered greatly, as well from fatigue as from the fire through which she had rushed to save her infant, and the child itself was so much burnt, that an inflammation taking place, it shortly after departed this life' (Jeffreys, pp. 118-124)."

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"'Practising throwing small spears, and other savage exercises, appear to be the whole education and employment of the children.' Beyond this statement of Davies (p. 412) we have no knowledge of the way in which their children were brought up. La Billardière 'observed in the children the greatest subordination to their parents' (II. ch. x. p. 60). The women had the entire care of the children, and the natives were extremely fond of their offspring (Van Diemen's Land Almanac, 1834, p. 78). On one occasion a French party alarmed the children, upon which La Billardière remarks (II. ch. x. pp. 54-55): 'The least of the children, frightened at the sight of such a number of Europeans, immediately took refuge in the arms of their mothers, who, lavished on them marks of the greatest affection. The fears of the children were soon removed; and they showed us, that they were not exempt from little passions, whence arose differences, to which the mothers almost immediately put an end by slight correction; but they soon found it necessary to stop their tears by caresses.' 'I shall not pass over in silence the correction a father gave one of his children for having thrown a stone at the back of another younger than himself: it was merely a light slap upon the shoulder, which made him shed tears, and prevented him doing so again' (Ibid. II. ch. x. p. 48). On the other hand, it is reported (Widowson, p. 190): 'So careless are they of their children, that it is not uncommon to see boys grown up, with feet exhibiting the loss of a toe or two, having, when infants, been dropped into the fire by the mother.'"